

September 13, 2005

To the Chief Executive Officers of all Pennsylvania State-Chartered Banks, Bank and Trust Companies, Savings Banks, Savings Associations and Credit Unions

Re: Assistance for Evacuees of Hurricane Katrina

The Pennsylvania Department of Banking joins with federal banking regulators in urging you to consider taking steps to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. In case you have not already seen it, I am enclosing a copy of a joint press release which presents an array of options you may choose to employ – to the extent that they are consistent with safe and sound banking practices, of course.

The news and images of Hurricane Katrina's aftermath are simply heartbreaking. One look at the devastation and it is clear that residents of the Gulf Coast will need help for a long time to come. Evacuees are now being relocated to emergency shelters around the country, including Pennsylvania. Others have found temporary homes with friends, family, and universities in the Commonwealth.

The victims of Hurricane Katrina have lost so much already. I hope that Pennsylvania's depository institutions will extend their compassion and generosity to those seeking refuge in our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Schenck", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

A. William Schenck III
Secretary of Banking

Enclosure